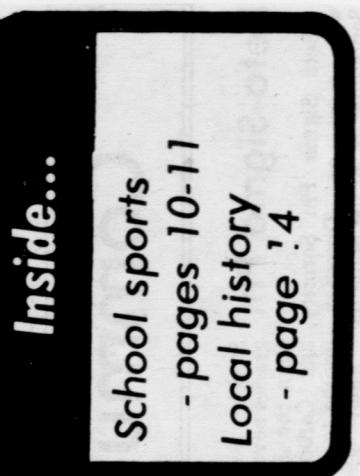


September 13, 1983, p. 3

I am very proud of this Tryon article. Lots of details, very readable, and it printed very well. No photograph reproduced beautifully. Bob Price will, I'm sure, be very pleased with this article on his grandfather.



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Carbondale News

Wednesday, September 14, 1983

25¢

Vol. 111 No. 37



Local history

George Tryon was prominent local building contractor after Civil War



George H. Tryon

By S. ROBERT POWELL

Until recently, very little was known about the life and career of one of the most widely known and respected building contractors in northeastern Pennsylvania during the final decades of the nineteenth century. George Hedding Tryon, who, in the fall of 1884, established himself permanently in Carbondale, where he lived and worked until his death twenty years later.

Since the publication of the article "Estabrook family traces roots in Carbondale to Civil War days" (NEWS, June 15, 1983, page 1), however, a large quantity of information has been learned about Tryon, who was the father-in-law of Charles Vivian Estabrook. This information has been learned primarily from Tryon's grandson, Robert F. Price, 169 Lincoln Avenue.

Tryon was the son of the Methodist minister, the Rev. Levi Dennis Tryon (1817-1870) and Priscilla Mead (1820-1892), both well known residents of Honesdale during their life times. Tryon was born at Auburn, N.Y., on November 26, 1845, and until 1884, resided at various times in Auburn, Bradford County, Honesdale, and other places.

During the years before the Civil War he lived in Honesdale, where, on August 10, 1862, he became a member, with the rank of corporal, of Captain James Mumford's Company G, 141st Infantry Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, which was assigned to the First Brigade, First Division, Third Corps, Army of the Potomac. At the time of his enlistment, Tryon was a mechanic. He served for three years, his regiment serving valiantly. Among the battles in which he fought are Fredericksburg (December 13, 1862), Cedar, VA (May 2, 1863), and Chancellorsville (May 3, 1863). At the battle of Gettysburg, the 141st was decimated, with 27 killed, 103 wounded, and 21 missing during the rebel attack. Nineteen came out of the battle unscathed (3 commanding officers and 16 enlisted men). Tryon was among the wounded on July 2, and was carried off the field of battle by I.M.

Haycock. Owing to his wound, sustained in that portion of the Battle of Gettysburg that took place in the Peach Orchard there, he was transferred to the invalid corps, in which he served the remainder of his term. On July 21, 1865 after 36 months of service to the nation, and by authority from the War Department, he was discharged, at Chicago, Illinois, as a corporal of Captain I. H. Chapman's in the 59th Company, 2nd Batt., V.R. Corps. From Tryon's discharge papers, which are owned by Robert Price, we learn that at the time of discharge, Tryon was 19 years old, 5 feet 6 and a quarter inches tall, with dark complexion, dark eyes and black hair. Tryon was mustered into the William H. Davies G.A.R. Post No. 187, Carbondale, on January 10, 1882, by transfer from G.A.R. Post No. 141.

Among the Civil War souvenirs that belonged to Tryon, and which are now owned by Robert Price, are Civil War buttons, several rounds of rifle ammunition (grape shot), a peach pit from the Peach Orchard, and several fragments picked up on the battlefield at Gettysburg. Price, in addition, owns an extraordinary photograph of Company G, 141st Pennsylvania Infantry, that was probably taken in the Fredericksburg area during the spring of 1863. Price's grandfather, George Hedding Tryon, appears in the photograph.

Following his discharge from the Union Army, Tryon learned the carpenter's trade and gained a knowledge of the business of contracting and building, which he followed first.

With Bank bonds, he established himself in business in Carbondale in Gelder's Block on River Street (near Hornbeck's). He was a member of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local Union No. 813. Among the important building contracts which Tryon had may be mentioned those for the Bank (probably the three-story addition, now razed, to the 1873 Miners and Mechanics' Bank, now razed, on North Main Street), the Leader Building, and the Aitken Building. In 1892, he erected no less than five buildings in Carbondale (Carl Shaffer's three-story block, John Williams' stone and brick store, Dennis Finnigan's three-story hotel, John D. Nealon's dwelling, and a building for George Brandow), and made extensive repairs on the building of Thomas O'Connell.

In 1894, he executed Truman J. Lacey's design for the new interior and the new roof on the old City Hall (the two-story wing of present-day City Hall) and joined the two-story wing to the three-story wing and the tower of the present building, at a cost of \$3,500. Tryon was engaged in the work of Lacey when the Binghamton contractor, W.D. Stevens, who erected the three-story wing and tower of City Hall, ceased work on his contract in the fall of 1893. It was Tryon and his workmen, in addition, who installed, at a cost of \$2,000, the four fireproof vaults that extend through both stories of the two-story wing of present-day City Hall. Tryon, who employed from 15 to 30 men during the busy season, erected, in addition, many family residences in Carbondale and vicinity, including the house now occupied by his youngest daughter, Doris I. (Tryon) Price, at 28 Darte Avenue.

"When I got home to dinner he complained and in the afternoon was compelled to take to his bed. From then on he failed rapidly and during the last hours suffered considerably, although at all times he displayed patience and fortitude."

Funeral services were conducted at the Tryon home on Darte Avenue by the Rev. T.F. Hall, pastor of the Methodist Church. From the house, the funeral cortège proceeded to Maplewood Cemetery, where, at the interment of Tryon's earthly remains, the G.A.R. ritual was read by J.M. Alexander, commander of the William H. Davies Post No. 187.